

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system for a discovering electronic device to discover the presence and network address of one or more discoverable electronic devices which are connected to the same network as the discovering device and which are located in the same delimited space as the discovering device, comprising:

a general purpose computing device residing in the discovering electronic device;

a computer program comprising program modules executable by the general purpose computing device, wherein the computing device is directed by the program modules of the computer program to,

receive a signature signal transmitted by a one of said one or more discoverable electronic devices, wherein the signature signal comprises an indicator data representing a signature of the discoverable device indicative of its presence in the delimited space, its being accessible via said network, and what type of discoverable electronic device transmitted the signature signal,

transmit a request signal for receipt by the discoverable electronic device whose signature was received which requests the address assigned to that discoverable device on the network to be transmitted to the discovering device, and

receive a reply signal transmitted by the discoverable electronic device whose signature was received which comprises data representing the requested network address, wherein

the signature, request and reply signals are not transmitted via the network and are transmitted in a manner that substantially limits their reception to the delimited space.

2. (currently amended) The system of Claim 1, ~~wherein the signature signal transmitted by the discoverable electronic device further comprises an indicator indicating the type of electronic device it is, and~~ wherein the program module for transmitting a request signal is executed only for a discoverable device of the type that it is desired for the discovering device to establish communications with, wherein the

device type is ascertained from the indicator included in the signature signal transmitted by the discoverable electronic device.

3. (original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the discovering device and each discoverable device comprises a microphone and loudspeaker for receiving and transmitting audio signals respectively, and wherein the signature, request and reply signals are audio signals.

4. (original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the signature signal is a low amplitude audio signal inaudible to humans which has the signature of the discoverable electronic device responsible for transmitting it embedded therein in the form an audio watermark, and wherein the program module for receiving a signature signal comprises a sub-module for obtaining the discoverable device's signature from the audio watermark.

5. (original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the program module for transmitting a request signal comprises a sub-module for generating the request signal in the form of a low amplitude audio signal inaudible to humans which has the address request embedded therein as an audio watermark, such that the discoverable device receiving the request signal obtains the address request from the audio watermark.

6. (original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the reply signal is a low amplitude audio signal inaudible to humans which has the data representing the requested network address embedded therein in the form an audio watermark, and wherein the program module for receiving a reply signal comprises a sub-module for obtaining the discoverable device's network address from the audio watermark.

7. (original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the signature signal is an audio signal audible to humans which has the signature of the discoverable electronic device responsible for transmitting it encoded therein, and wherein the program module for receiving a signature signal comprises a sub-module for decoding the discoverable device's signature from the signature signal.

8. (original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the program module for transmitting a request signal comprises a sub-module for generating the request signal in the form of an audio signal audible to humans which has the address request encoded therein, such that the discoverable device receiving the request signal obtains the address request by decoding the request signal.

9. (original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the reply signal is an audio signal audible to humans which has the data representing the requested network address encoded therein, and wherein the program module for receiving a reply signal comprises a sub-module for decoding the discoverable device's network address from the reply signal.

10. (original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the signature signal is transmitted by a discoverable electronic device on a periodic basis.

11. (original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the signature signal transmitted by a discoverable electronic device is encrypted, and wherein the program module for receiving the signature signal transmitted by a discoverable electronic device comprises a sub-module for decrypting the signal.

12. (original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the reply signal transmitted by a discoverable electronic device is encrypted, and wherein the program module for receiving the reply signal transmitted by a discoverable electronic device comprises a sub-module for decrypting the signal.

13. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein one or more of the discoverable devices further comprises a confirmation actuator which is only capable of being activated by person physically present in the delimited space, and wherein a person must activate the confirmation actuator on a discoverable device having one before that discoverable device will transmit the signature signal.

14. (original) The system of Claim 1, wherein one or more of the discoverable devices further comprises a confirmation actuator which is only capable of being

activated by person physically present in the delimited space, and wherein a person must activate the confirmation actuator on a discoverable device having one before that discoverable device will transmit the reply signal.

15-30. (cancelled)

31. (new) The system of Claim 1, wherein each discoverable device comprises an infrared (IR) transmitter and the discovering device comprises an IR receiver, and wherein the signal transmitted by a discoverable electronic device is an IR signal emitted from its IR transmitter, and wherein the program modules for the discovering device receiving the signature and reply signals transmitted by a discoverable electronic device comprises receiving the signal via its IR receiver.

32. (new) The system of Claim 31, wherein the IR transmitter of each discoverable electronic device is powerful enough to extend throughout the delimited space.

33. (new) The system of Claim 1, wherein the program module for transmitting the request signal, comprises a sub-module for specifying the type of discoverable electronic device it is desired to obtain the network address for, such that only the discoverable electronic device of the specified type which is presence in the delimited space and accessible via said network transmits a reply signal.